

The Social Security Confidentiality Act of 1999...

name and address in the window of the envelope. This same envelope makes its way through the United States Postal system. In a time of increasing identity theft, should the government really make a scam artist's job any easier?

The answer is a resounding...NO!! This is why I introduced the Social Security Confidentiality Act of 1999 (H.R. 3218) this past November. The legislation would prohibit the appearance of Social Security numbers on or through the windows of unopened Social Security checks. By simply taking a quick peek in a mailbox, or in a pile of mail left in a person's car, anyone could obtain the information needed to steal someone's identity. The open display of such private and confidential information is an invitation for scam artists to rip off our senior citizens.

An investigation into the situation revealed that the Social Security Administration knowingly continues this practice. Ironically, at the same time they advocate the need to keep Social Security numbers confidential.

In the July / August issue of Social Security Today, the agency advises us to "protect your Social Security number. Be careful how you use it and keep it confidential whenever possible." In all fairness, the checks are printed by the Department of Treasury, and my legislation will direct them to change their procedures.

However, this is a glaring inconsistency that requires immediate attention. H.R. 3218 will do just that.



60 Plus Association President Jim Martin (left) and Honorary Chairman Roger Zion (right) honor Rep. Ken Calvert with the Guardian of Senior's Rights Award for his pledge to protect Social Security.

Medicare Fixes...

Medicare, Medicaid, and S-CHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (H.R. 3075) - Strengthens Medicare and reduces out-of-pocket costs for millions of seniors on fixed incomes by increasing funding by \$16 billion to providers of Medicare services. With this legislation, Representative Calvert and the Republican Congress ensure that America's seniors receive the high quality health care they deserve by restoring needed funding to hospitals, nursing homes and other health care providers over the next five years. The diagram on the right shows a partial break-out of how the \$16 billion will be distributed.

PROGRAM	5 YEAR (in billions)	10 YEAR (in billions)
Hospitals	3.3	5.3
Skilled Nursing Facilities	2.1	2.1
Home Health and Hospice	1.3	1.4
Dialysis & Durable Medical Equipment	.3	.8
Medicare Choice	1.9	2.5
Medicaid	.7	1.2

Goeske Center for Senior and Disabled Citizens Center Update...

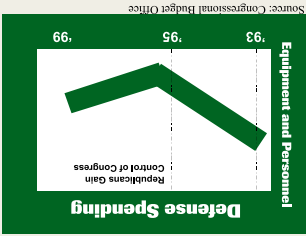
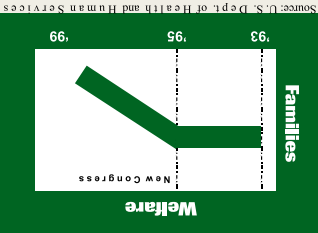
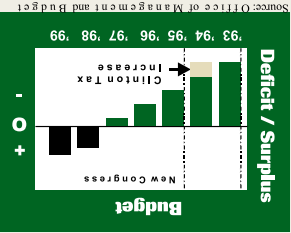
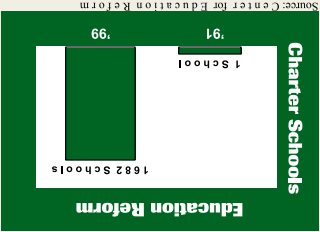
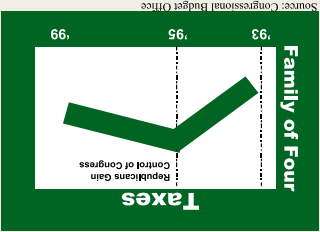
This year an additional \$350,000 was secured for continued center expansion in the FY2000 Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill. This is on top of last year's \$750,000 that I was pleased to obtain for the center.

Currently, Goeske resides on a 12,500 square feet facility situated on ten acres.

The additional funding will assure the construction of an additional 12,000 square foot building adjacent to the center to accommodate the growing senior population in the area. Presently, the center serves approximately 13,500 senior residents from the Riverside community each month and provides a wide variety of services.



Councilwoman Joy Defenbaugh and Mayor Ron Loveidge thank Rep. Calvert for his efforts to secure \$750,000 in FY99 federal funding - an additional \$350,000 was secured FY00 - for the expansion of the Goeske Center.



Congressman Ken Calvert, Making a Difference...

How to Contact Congressman Ken Calvert

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Ken Calvert

Bulk Rate MC  
CAR-RT SORT

Extra, Extra!!! It's about Securing America's Future.

INSIDE: Important Update for Seniors from Congressman Ken Calvert



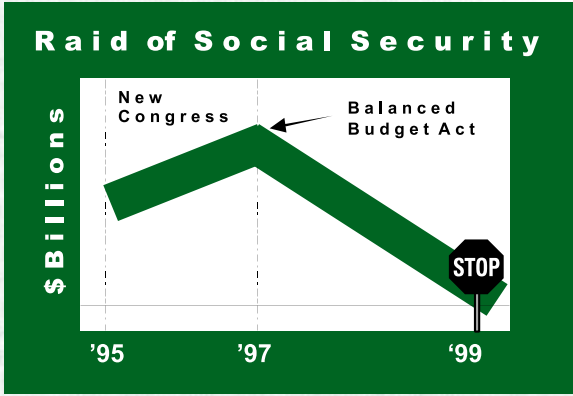
Dear Friend:

After a lifetime of hard work and paying taxes, Americans should be able to trust that they will receive full benefits when they retire. My fellow Republicans in Congress and I are committed to fulfilling this commitment to providing retirement security for three generations of Americans - our seniors, the baby boomers and their children.

For more than 30 years, government bureaucrats have raided the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for massive government spending sprees. Our payroll taxes belong in a trust fund, not a slush fund.

One of the key elements in our plan to preserve and protect these vital programs is the "Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 1999," which requires that EVERY penny of the Social Security Trust Fund be devoted to strengthening Social Security and Medicare, starting in the fiscal year 2000.

I encourage you to read about these proposals and as always, I value and need your feedback. If we work together and explore new ideas, we can secure America's future for us, our children, our grandchildren and generations to come.



Source: Congressional Budget Office

...Our Social Security taxes belong in a trust fund, not a slush fund...

# Stopping the Raid, Saving Social Security...



I am determined to stop the raiding for good with the support of my colleagues who are committed to doing the same. Since 1970, Democrat-controlled congresses have spent nearly \$3.5 trillion from the Social Security Trust Fund. That is why I voted "yes" for the Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Lockbox Act. Under this act, we secure the Social Security and Medicare funds for today's seniors and tomorrow's beneficiaries. Every dime - 100% - of the fund is protected and cannot be used for any other purposes...period. We will also pay down over \$2.2 trillion on the national debt over the next ten years.

**Every American worker pays for the Trust Fund and we are committed to making certain it is there for every American worker.**

Nor more raiding of the Trust fund. No more raiding our futures. Preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare...NOW! The House has acted. Senate Democrats are stalling a vote on the Lock Box and President Clinton said in January that protecting Social Security should be our #1 priority...yet, he did not send his proposals on Social Security to Congress for 10 months.



## Generic Drugs — Prescription to Lower Health Care Costs...

Today's seniors are living longer, healthier lives, thanks in part to modern medicine. Death rates from heart disease, cancer and stroke are going down. Hundreds of new medicines are now being developed to combat diseases of aging, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and arthritis.

With the promise prescription drugs hold for good health, it concerns me when I hear about senior citizens who can't afford the medicine they need. Improving their access to prescription drugs is a high priority for me. That is why I created the bipartisan Generic Drug Equity Caucus with Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV) — to educate Congress about the very REAL solution generic drugs offer to improve access and lower costs.

I support the brand name drug companies need for patent protections to cover the costs of their innovative drug research, but extending patent protections beyond the initial patent length serves only to give the brand names a monopoly over the pharmaceutical marketplace - a monopoly that make the prices of many drugs out of reach. Experts have found that generic drugs reduce costs to consumers by as much as 50% in the first year of their introduction and by as much as 70-75% by the end of the second year. This means that generic drugs offer a very REAL solution to making prescription drug coverage affordable for the government, insurance companies and seniors.



## The Managed Health Care Debate...

This fall, Congress spent two days debating managed health care. The debate was split into two primary issues: access to a health care plan of your choice and the patient's "Bill of Rights." Access to health care plans was up first and I voted "yes" for this important piece of legislation.

As a former small business operator, I know first hand how difficult it is for business owners to provide their employees with health care. During the debates we saw that - like prescription drugs - AFFORDABILITY came up again and again as the crux of the problem.

I AGREE THAT PATIENTS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO SUE THEIR INSURANCE COMPANIES FOR DENIED CARE, but I also recognize that lawsuits without monetary caps on punitive damages will SKYROCKET health care costs. Any true "reform" bill must make health care all the more affordable to the average citizen, and especially for seniors.

At printing time the House and Senate bills are being reconciled. I believe we can develop a compromise during this process which gives Americans a real choice in health care and leverage over HMOs.